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Department of Energy

ROCKY FLATS FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 928
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MAR 09 1995

95-DOE-08199

Mr. Martin Hestmark
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII
ATTN: Rocky Flats Project Manager, 8HWM-RI
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Denver, Colorado 80202-2405

ADMIN RECORD

Mr. Joe Schieffelin, Unit Leader
Hazardous Waste Facilities
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80222-1530

Gentlemen:

In response to inquiries from Rocky Flats Field Office (RFFO) Environmental Restoration (ER) staff concerning wetland mitigation, a conference call was held on February 21, 1995 at 9:00 am between the Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency, The Corps of Engineers, and The City of Westminster to discuss possible coordination with the Standley Lake Protection Project (SLPP) wetland mitigation activities.

The City of Westminster impacted 3.6 acres of wetlands during construction activities related to SLPP. The Corps, under Permit 404, has required Westminster to replace these 3.6 acres with 11 engineered wetland acres. The final engineering design for the wetlands should generate 12.9 acres of wetlands, leaving 1.9 unallocated acres. Westminster is willing to have the unallocated acres used for wetland mitigation of RFFO projects. The extra 1.9 acres would come from the periphery of the wetland area and would include a variety of wetland vegetation (sedge/rush, willow/shrub, cottonwood/shrub, and leadplant). Construction of the wetlands began in September 1994, and planting is scheduled to begin in early April of 1995. The operation and monitoring of the engineered wetlands should begin in early June.

The Corps expressed concern during the conference call on February 21, 1995 about the actions of DOE and Westminster if the actual wetlands covered an area smaller than the 12.9 acres planned. If the acreage were less than the planned 12.9 acres all parties agree and understand that the first 11 acres would be used by Westminster to mitigate SLPP activities. Any additional acres would be used by the DOE to mitigate RFFO projects.

It is DOE's intent to "deposit" this "surplus" wetland acreage into site-wide wetland mitigation "bank" earmarked for near-term ER Projects. "Withdrawals" against this "bank" could then be negotiated on a project-specific basis as needed.

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In our Supplementary Environmental Project (SEP) meeting of February 28, 1995, DOE agreed to research the possibility of expanding the SLPP wetlands to mitigate RFFO wetland impacts with SEP funding. We are proceeding with our investigation of this possibility, and will contact you with status by March 8, 1995.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Elizabeth Zika at 966-7164.

Sincerely,



Steven W. Slaten
IAG Project Coordinator
Environmental Restoration

cc:

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